

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /028 W
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P 230604Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3391

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 4702

EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER), MARR
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: DRAFT COUNTRY ISSUES PAPER

1. FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF SECTIONS OF ISSUES
PAPER DEALING WITH BASE DISCUSSIONS. FURTHER CHANGES
ARE LIKELY TO BE NECESSARY IN THE LIGHT OF ONGOING
DEVELOPMENTS.

2. QUOTE: GENERAL POSTURE. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
PHILIPPINES WILL BE IN A CRITICAL PERIOD. YOU WILL BE
TALKING TO MARCOS IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN ELECTION IN WHICH
HE AND MRS. MARCOS FELT OUR INSISTENCE ON HOLDING IT AND
OUR INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF JAILED OPPOSITION LEADER
AQUINO CREATED AN UNNECESSARY THREAT TO THEIR POSITION.
THERE WILL MAY BE CHARGES OF MASSIVE VOTE FRAUD. AT
THE SAME TIME WE HAVE REACHED A POINT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS
ON THE MILITARY BASES AT WHICH MARCOS MUST DECIDE
WHETHER HE IS PREPARED TO MAKE THE COMPROMISES NECESSARY
TO REACH AGREEMENT.
MARCOS, HIS GOVERNMENT, AND OPPOSITION WILL BE LOOKING TO
THE VISIT AS A SIGN OF THE USG REACTION TO THE HANDLING OF
THE ELECTIONS AND AN INDICATION OF HIS ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE
OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN THE FUTURE. WE WANT TO EN-
COURAGE HIM TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS IN THE PATH TOWARD POLI-
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TICAL NORMALIZATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL BE TESTING TO DETERMINE HOW
MUCH FLEXIBILITY REMAINS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE BASES AND THE SIZE AND
CONDITIONS (ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS) OF OUR COMPENSATION
PROPOSAL (WE HAVE HAVE A GOP COUNTER PROPOSAL JUST BEFORE
THE VISIT). WE NEED FOR MARCOS AND HIS ADVISORS TO RECOG-

NIZE THAT HE HAS EXACTED FROM US VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CONCESSIONS WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE IN THE BASE DISCUSSIONS AND THAT IT IS IN THE PHILIPPINES' INTEREST TO COME TO AGREEMENT. LACKING THAT, WE MUST CONVINCE THE GOP TO CONTINUE A CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP UNDER THE STATUS QUO.

3. MILITARY BASE DISCUSSION

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1947 MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT (VALID THROUGH 1991) THE US OPERATIONS ESSENTIAL NAVAL AND AIR BASES AT SUBIC BAY AND CLARK FIELD AS WELL AS AT THREE OTHER LOCATIONS. THE PHILIPPINES OBJECTS TO THE MBA BECAUSE IT DOES NOT GIVE SUFFICIENT RECOGNITION TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND THERE IS NO EXPLICIT PROVISION FOR OUR PAYING COMPENSATION FOR THE BASES. THESE OBJECTIONS HAVE BEFORE AND COULD AGAIN RESULT IN FRICTION WHICH COULD HAMPER OUR OPERATIONS. CULMINATING THE MOST RECENT OF MANY ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS, THE US PRESENTED COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH WHICH WOULD: PLACE THE BASES UNDER A PHILIPPINE COMMANDER, RESERVE DELINEATED AREAS FOR U.S. CONTROL, RETAIN OUR OPERATING RIGHTS, AND PROMISE EHA ADMINISTRATION'S BEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FROM CONGRESS \$80 MILLION IN MAP AND SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND FMS CREDITS EACH YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS. WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER ADDITIONAL GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TOTALLING \$20 MILLION AND \$30 MILLION FMS AND COULD STILL MAKE SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR OTHER

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POSITIONS. HOWEVER, THE PHILIPPINES, PRESSING ROUGHLY HALF THE UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS THEY MADE TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, CONTINUES TO INSIST ON: RETURN OF SOME ESSENTIAL OPERATING AREAS (ESPECIALLY THE WATERS OF SUBIC BAY); AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF CONTROL OVER US OPERATIONS; AND, SUBSTANTIALLY MORE COMPENSATION PROVIDED UNDER A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT TIED TO THE MBA, LIKE THE TURKISH AGREEMENT. DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, FOR THE RECORD AT LEAST, HAVE SOUGHT TO CONVINCE MARCOS NOT TO COMPROMISE ON THOSE DEMANDS.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3392

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 4702

EA ONLY

TALKING POINTS

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION; (A) VALUES THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES;

(B) WANTS TO CONDUCT THE RELATIONSHIP ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUAL BENEFIT, IN FULL RECOGNITION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE CONTINUED UNHAMPERED OPERATION OF THE BASES;

(C) TOWARDS THIS END, IT HAS PLACED THE PHILIPPINES HIGH ON ITS LIST OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIORITIES, UNDERTAKEN A MAJOR REVIEW OF ITS POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE BASES AND ENGAGED IN UNPRECEDENTED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS PRIOR TO PRESENTING THE PHILIPPINES WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS TO EMHANCE OUR RELATIONSHIP.

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST WITH REGARD BOTH TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TO THE MONETARY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSALS TO INCLUDE MAJOR NEW BENEFITS FOR THE PHILIPPINES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PHILIPPINE OBSERVERS WHO SEEK MORE -- JUST AS MANY US OBSERVERS BELIEVE WE HAVE ALREADY OFFERED TOO MUCH. HOWEVER, THE LIMITATIONS WHICH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM AND OTHERS HAVE CONVEYED ARE REAL. WHATEVER COURSE PRESIDENT MARCOS CHOSE TO FOLLOW WITH REGARD TO OUR PROPOSAL AND THE CONCERNS THE GOP HAS EXPRESSED ABOUT IT, WE WOULD ASK THAT THESE LIMITATIONS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

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FOR OUR PART, WE PLEDGE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASES WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO US BOTH AND TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE GOP TO ASSURE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP REMAINS A HARMONIOUS ONE EVEN AS WE CONTINUE TO SEEK THE AGREEMENT. END QUOTE.

4. A BACKGROUND PAPER ON THE BASE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE ADDED TO THE BOOK AT A LATER DATE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE STATE OF PLAY AT THAT TIME.

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